

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Knowlton)
Serial No.: To Be Assigned) Group No.: Unknown
Filed: Herewith) Examiner: To Be Assigned
For: Tissue Remodeling Apparatus Containing)
Cooling Fluid)

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Before action on the merits, please consider the following amendments and remarks.

In the Specification:

On page 1, line 4 please insert a new paragraph:

-- Cross Reference to Related Application:

This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/337,015, filed June 30, 1999 which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application No. 08/583,815, filed January 5, 1996, a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application No. 08/827,237, filed March 28, 1997, a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application No. 08/914,681, filed August 19, 1997, and a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application No. 08/942,274, filed September 30, 1997. --

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-31 without prejudice.

Please insert the following new claims:

32. A treatment apparatus, comprising:

2 a handpiece assembly;
3 an RF electrode assembly coupled to a distal portion of the handpiece, the RF electrode assembly
4 including a tissue interface surface; and
5 a cooling member positioned at least partially in the handpiece assembly and configured to
6 provide evaporative cooling to at least a portion of the RF electrode assembly, wherein the RF
7 electrode assembly is configured to provide evaporative cooling to a tissue positioned adjacent to the
8 tissue interface surface.

1 33. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the cooling member includes a pressurized fluid reservoir.

1 34. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:
2 a temperature sensor coupled to the RF electrode assembly.

1 35. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:
2 a feedback control configured to be coupled to an energy source and coupled to the
3 RF electrode assembly.

1 36. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:
2 a feedback control coupled to the RF electrode assembly and the cooling member.

1 37. A treatment apparatus, comprising:
2 a handpiece assembly;
3 an RF electrode assembly coupled to a distal portion of the handpiece, the RF
4 electrode assembly including at least one RF electrode and a semiconductor member coupled
5 to the RF electrode; and
6 a cooling member positioned at least partially in the handpiece assembly and configured to
7 provide cooling to at least a portion of the RF electrode assembly.

1 38. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the semiconductor member is conductive.

1 39. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the cooling member includes a pressurized fluid reservoir.

1 40. The apparatus of claim 6, further comprising:
2 a temperature sensor coupled to the RF electrode assembly.

1 41. The apparatus of claim 6, further comprising:
2 a feedback control configured to be coupled to an energy source and coupled to the
3 RF electrode assembly.

- 1 42. The apparatus of claim 6, further comprising:
2 a feedback control coupled to the RF electrode assembly and the cooling member.
- 1 43. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein the semiconductor member has a conductivity in the range
2 of 10^{-4} to $10^3(\text{ohm-cm})^{-1}$.
- 1 44. A treatment apparatus, comprising:
2 a handpiece assembly;
3 an RF electrode assembly coupled to a distal portion of the handpiece, the RF
4 electrode assembly including at least one RF electrode and a semiconductor member coupled
5 to the RF electrode;
6 a cooling member positioned at least partially in the handpiece assembly and configured to
7 provide cooling to at least a portion of the RF electrode assembly; and
8 a pressure sensor coupled to the RF electrode assembly.
- 1 45. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the cooling member includes a pressurized fluid reservoir.
- 1 46. The apparatus of claim 13, further comprising:
2 a temperature sensor coupled to the RF electrode assembly.
- 1 47. The apparatus of claim 13, further comprising:
2 a feedback control configured to be coupled to an energy source and coupled to the
3 RF electrode assembly.
- 1 48. The apparatus of claim 13, further comprising:
2 a feedback control coupled to the RF electrode assembly and the cooling member.
- 1 49. A treatment apparatus, comprising:
2 a handpiece assembly;
3 an RF electrode assembly coupled to a distal portion of the handpiece, the RF
4 electrode assembly including at least one RF electrode and a semiconductor member coupled
5 to the RF electrode, the at least one RF electrode and semiconductor member configured to
6 provide a uniform current density to a tissue interface surface of the RF electrode assembly;
7 and
8 a cooling member positioned at least partially in the handpiece assembly and configured to
9 provide cooling to at least a portion of the RF electrode assembly.

- 1 50. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the cooling member includes a pressurized fluid reservoir.
- 1 51. The apparatus of claim 18, further comprising:
2 a temperature sensor coupled to the RF electrode assembly.
- 1 52. The apparatus of claim 18, further comprising:
2 a feedback control configured to be coupled to an energy source and coupled to the
3 RF electrode assembly.
- 1 53. The apparatus of claim 18, further comprising:
2 a feedback control coupled to the RF electrode assembly and the cooling member.
- 1 54. A treatment apparatus, comprising:
2 a handpiece assembly;
3 an RF electrode assembly coupled to a distal portion of the handpiece, the RF
4 electrode assembly including at least one RF electrode and a semiconductor member coupled
5 to the RF electrode, the at least one RF electrode and semiconductor member, wherein an
6 impedance of the RF electrode is larger at its periphery; and
7 a cooling member positioned at least partially in the handpiece assembly and configured to
8 provide cooling to at least a portion of the RF electrode assembly.
- 1 55. The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the cooling member includes a pressurized fluid reservoir.
- 1 56. The apparatus of claim 23, further comprising:
2 a temperature sensor coupled to the RF electrode assembly.
- 1 57. The apparatus of claim 23, further comprising:
2 a feedback control configured to be coupled to an energy source and coupled to the
3 RF electrode assembly.
- 1 58. The apparatus of claim 23, further comprising:
2 a feedback control coupled to the RF electrode assembly and the cooling member.
- 1 59. A treatment apparatus, comprising:
2 a handpiece assembly;

an RF electrode assembly coupled to a distal portion of the handpiece, the RF electrode assembly including a tissue interface surface, at least one active RF electrode and a semiconductor member coupled to the RF electrode;
a passive RF electrode;
a cooling member positioned at least partially in the handpiece assembly and configured to provide cooling to at least a portion of the RF electrode assembly; and
a feedback control coupled to the active RF electrode and the passive RF electrode, the feedback control providing an interruption of power delivery to the active RF electrode upon the occurrence of an pre-determined event.

60. The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the cooling member includes a pressurized fluid reservoir.

61. The apparatus of claim 28, further comprising:
a temperature sensor coupled to the RF electrode assembly.

62. The apparatus of claim 28, further comprising:
a feedback control configured to be coupled to an energy source and coupled to the RF electrode assembly.

63. The apparatus of claim 28, further comprising:
a feedback control coupled to the RF electrode assembly and the cooling member.

64. A treatment apparatus, comprising:
a handpiece assembly;
an RF electrode assembly coupled to a distal portion of the handpiece, the RF electrode assembly including tissue interface surface, at least one RF electrode and a semiconductor member coupled to the RF electrode;
a cooling member positioned at least partially in the handpiece assembly and configured to provide cooling to at least a portion of the RF electrode assembly; and
a feedback control coupled to the RF electrode and configured to maintain the RF electrode at a desired temperature without causing a shut down of power delivery to the RF electrode assembly due to a development of an excessive electrical impedance at the RF electrode assembly.

65. The apparatus of claim 31, wherein the cooling member includes a pressurized fluid reservoir.

66. The apparatus of claim 32, further comprising:

- 2 a temperature sensor coupled to the RF electrode assembly.
- 1 67. The apparatus of claim 33, further comprising:
2 a feedback control configured to be coupled to an energy source and coupled to the
3 RF electrode assembly.
- 1 68. The apparatus of claim 34, further comprising:
2 a feedback control coupled to the RF electrode assembly and the cooling member.
- 1 69. A treatment apparatus, comprising:
2 a handpiece assembly;
3 an RF electrode assembly coupled to a distal portion of the handpiece, the RF
4 electrode assembly including a tissue interface surface; and
5 a cooling member positioned at least partially in the RF electrode assembly and configured to
6 provide evaporative cooling to at least a portion of the RF electrode assembly, wherein the RF
7 electrode assembly is configured to provide evaporative cooling to a tissue positioned
8 adjacent to the tissue interface surface.
- 1 70. A treatment apparatus, comprising:
2 a handpiece assembly;
3 an RF electrode assembly coupled to a distal portion of the handpiece, the RF
4 electrode assembly including at least one RF electrode and a semiconductor member coupled
5 to the RF electrode; and
6 a cooling member positioned at least partially in the RF electrode assembly and configured to
7 provide cooling to at least a portion of the RF electrode assembly.
- 1 71. A treatment apparatus, comprising:
2 a handpiece assembly;
3 an RF electrode assembly coupled to a distal portion of the handpiece, the RF
4 electrode assembly including at least one RF electrode and a semiconductor member coupled
5 to the RF electrode;
6 a cooling member positioned at least partially in the RF electrode assembly and configured to
7 provide cooling to at least a portion of the RF electrode assembly; and
8 a pressure sensor coupled to the RF electrode assembly.
- 1 72. A treatment apparatus, comprising:
2 a handpiece assembly;

3 an RF electrode assembly coupled to a distal portion of the handpiece, the RF
4 electrode assembly including at least one RF electrode and a semiconductor member coupled
5 to the RF electrode, the at least one RF electrode and semiconductor member configured to
6 provide a uniform current density to a tissue interface surface of the RF electrode assembly;
7 and
8 a cooling member positioned at least partially in the RF electrode assembly and configured to
9 provide cooling to at least a portion of the RF electrode assembly.

- 1 73. A treatment apparatus, comprising:
2 a handpiece assembly;

3 an RF electrode assembly coupled to a distal portion of the handpiece, the RF
4 electrode assembly including at least one RF electrode and a semiconductor member coupled
5 to the RF electrode, the at least one RF electrode and semiconductor member, wherein an
6 impedance of the RF electrode is larger at its periphery; and
7 a cooling member positioned at least partially in the RF electrode assembly and configured to
8 provide cooling to at least a portion of the RF electrode assembly.

- 9 74. A treatment apparatus, comprising:
10 a handpiece assembly;

11 an RF electrode assembly coupled to a distal portion of the handpiece, the RF
12 electrode assembly including a tissue interface surface, at least one active RF electrode and a
13 semiconductor member coupled to the RF electrode;
14 a passive RF electrode;

15 a cooling member positioned at least partially in the RF electrode assembly and
16 configured to provide cooling to at least a portion of the RF electrode assembly; and
17 a feedback control coupled to the active RF electrode and the passive RF electrode, the
18 feedback control providing an interruption of power delivery to the active RF electrode upon
19 the occurrence of an pre-determined event.

- 20 75. A treatment apparatus, comprising:
21 a handpiece assembly;

22 an RF electrode assembly coupled to a distal portion of the handpiece, the RF
23 electrode assembly including tissue interface surface, at least one RF electrode and a
24 semiconductor member coupled to the RF electrode;
25 a cooling member positioned at least partially in the RF electrode assembly and configured to
26 provide cooling to at least a portion of the RF electrode assembly; and

8 a feedback control coupled to the RF electrode and configured to maintain the RF electrode at
9 a desired temperature without causing a shut down of power delivery to the RF electrode
10 assembly due to a development of an excessive electrical impedance at the RF electrode
11 assembly.

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THERMAGE

CONCLUSION

It is submitted that the present application is in form for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, including petition fees and extension of time fees, to Deposit Account No. 23-2415 (Docket No. 16904-760). A duplicate copy of this paper is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

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